

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

Public Services – Treasuries and Accounts Department – Mahabubnagar District – Allegations of Corruption against Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, formerly AAO O/o. the Deputy Director, Social Welfare, Mahabubnagar – Imposition of punishment of withholding of 30% pension for a period of (5) years under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980 – Orders – Issued.

FINANCE (ADMN.I.VIG) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.3205

Dated: 29-07-2008.

Read the following:-

1. From the Director General, ACB No.106/DES.HMR/97, dt. 04-08-97.
2. DTA Charge Memo.No.K1/2847/99, dt 05-05-1999.
3. DTA Lr.No.K1/28746/99, dt 20-09-1999.
4. G.O.Rt.No.511, Social Welfare (SW.SER.III) Department, dt. 19-11-2005.
5. Social Welfare Department U.O.Note.No.15355/SW.SER.III.2/97-84, dt. 10-8-2007 along with enquiry report of Sri S.Satyanarayana, Member Commissioner of Inquiries, Hyderabad.
6. Govt. Memo.No.173/FS/A2/Admn.I.Vig/1999, dt. 28-8-2007.
7. DTA Lr.No.K (I) I/2847/1999, dt. 23-10-2007 along with explanation of Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, AAO, (Retd.), dt 11-10-07.
8. Govt. Memo.No.173/FS/A2/Admn.I.Vig/1999, dt. 20-12-2007.
9. DTA Lr. No. K (I) I/2847/1999, dt. 08-02-2008 along with explanation of Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, AAO, (Retd.), dt. 22-01-2008.
10. Govt. Memo.No.173/FS/A2 /Admn.I.Vig/A2/1999, dt. 20-02-2008.
11. DTA Lr. No. K (I)I/2847/1999, dt. 16-04-2008 along with Proforma particulars
12. Govt.Lr.No.173/FS/A2/Admn.I.Vig./1999, dt. 28-4-2008 addressed to APPSC.
13. APPSC Lr.No.584/RT-I/3/2008, dated: 17-06-2008.

ORDER:

In the reference 1st cited, the ACB has reported that the officials of O/o. the Deputy Director, Social Welfare department, Mahabubnagar have made purchases of diet material in February and March, 1997 at abnormal rates than the prevailing prices in the local market. On credible information a surprise check was conducted on 09-06-1997 over the O/o the Deputy Director, Social Welfare, Mahabubnagar by the Anti Corruption Bureau Officials of Hyderabad Range, Hyderabad with the assistance of Sri M.A.Taher, Typist, O/o. the Joint Director, Agriculture, Mahabubnagar.

2. Further, the ACB has reported that at the time of surprise check the Accounts Officer Sri Rama Murthy was alone present in the office. On enquiry, he revealed that the Deputy Director, Sri D.Vasu, District Social Welfare Officer and other staff were attending a training programme at District Institute Educational Training Centre, Mahabubnagar Town. The Deputy Director, and other connected staff were summoned to the office. On enquiry with regard to the purchase of diet material in February and March, 1997 in S.C. Welfare Hostels in the District, the Deputy Director has produced diet bills of 2/97 and 3/97 along with the four divisions budget control registers of the District. A copy of the approved rate of the diet items by the Purchase Committee was also produced on demand of the surprise check party. All the above records were taken over for verification along with note files of Jadcherla Boys and Girls Hostels and A.B. Hostels of Mahabubnagar and other records under a mediator's report. On perusal of some of the diet bills of February and March 97, it is noticed that the Wardens/Matrons of the hostels have purchased the following items at higher rates than the existing market prices for obvious reasons. The market prices of the some items, prevailing during the

month of February and March 97 were also obtained from major towns in the District and were compared with prices purchased by the wardens and it is revealed that the prices at which they were purchased by the Wardens are higher as detailed below:

Sl.No.	Name of the commodity	Rates purchased by the Hostel Wardens/Matrons Rs. Per Kg.	Then prevailing market price Rs. Per Kg	Difference Rs. Per Kg.
1.	Towar dall	28/-	23/-	5/-
2.	Tamarind	20/-	14/-	6/-
3.	Chillies (dry)	50/-	16/-	34/-
4.	Chilli powder	50/-	34/-	16/-
5.	Dhania	60/-	30/-	30/-

3. On perusal of the note file of the S.C. Boys Hostel, Jadcherla, it is mentioned by the concerned clerk that both the hostels warden (Boys) and Matrons purchased diet material from the same shop i.e. M/s.Laxmi Narsimha Kirana Merchant, Station Road, Jadcherla within a week i.e., from 1-2-97 to 08-02-97 and that there is a lot of variation in prices may be seen in the table below:

Sl.No.	Name of the commodity	Rates purchased by the matrons S.C. Girls Hostel, Jadcherla Rs. Per Kg.	Rates purchased by the Wardens S.C. Boys Hostel, Jadcherla Rs. Per Kg.
1.	Towar dall	26/-	28/-
2.	Tamarind	25/-	20/-
3.	Mirchi Powder	26/-	50/-
4.	Onions	5/-	4/-
5.	Zeera	100/-	75/-
6.	Turmeric	35/-	34/-
7.	Rai (Avalu)	25/-	16/-

4. From the above it is seen that, in spite of glaring differences in rates of same item though purchased from one shop by the concerned clerk, the Assistant Accounts Officer, the District Social Welfare Officer and the Deputy Director have approved the bill submitted by the Warden and Matron.

5. Further, on perusal of the cash book of the Deputy Director, Social Welfare, it was found that the cash book was written up to 3-6-1997 with a balance of Rs.12,88,662.73 of uncashed Demand Drafts of worth Rs.12,72,317.73 paisa. The Demand Drafts were pending from 1987 till 31-3-1997. When asked to open the cash chest, the Assistant Accounts Officer, Sri Rama Murthy sated that the keys of the cash chest was not handed over to him by his predecessor Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy and he took charge only on 4-6-1997 F.N. The surprise check party sealed the cash chest and room by affixing the chits containing the signature of the said party. **Further, it was observed that there were no signatures in the cash book from 23-5-1997 onwards.** On **13-6-1997** the then Assistant Accounts Officer, Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy was summoned and was asked to open the cash chest in the presence of the Deputy Director, District Social Welfare Officer and present Accounts Officer after ensuring that the seals were intact. On opening of the cash chest inventory proceedings were drafted by incorporating the items found in the cash chest. It was found that old Demand Drafts and cheques from 1987 onwards to 31-3-1997 were pending and net cash of Rs.75,000/- was found when questioned with regards to Demand Drafts and cash the then Asst. Accounts Officer, Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy stated that relevant files with regard to the Demand Drafts were not traced in the office and hence there was pending. In respect of cash Rs.75,000/- found as against the book balance of Rs. 15,905/- as on 3-6-97 when questioned with regards to excess amount, Sri A. Hanumantha Reddy could not give any satisfactory answer.

6. Further, on perusal of the District Treasury Office Register it is seen that at Sl.No.949, 950, 956 and 957, Rs. 53,474/-, Rs.1,13,500/-, Rs.44,127/- and Rs.83,300/- were drawn on 31-3-1997 towards the cosmetic charges of various hostels for the year 1995-96. The Deputy Director and District Social Welfare Officer are not empowered to draw cash at a time. They should draw the money hostel-wise and concerned warden has to be given a Demand Drafts/Cheque after deducting the amount of the students who have left the institution in the month of March/April 1996. However, this is not being done.

7. Further, on perusal of the rates approved by the purchase committee headed by the Joint Collector, Mahabubnagar, it was seen that the contract was awarded to M/s Parimal Traders, Gadwal for the supply of diet material to the Gadwal and Narayanpet, Sub Division and with regard to Mahabubnagar & Nagar Kurnool Divisions contract of supply of diet material was given to M/s. Padmavathi Mahila Co-operative Super Bazar, Mahabubnagar. The Quotations were finalized in the months of October/November 1996 and the Joint Collector, Mahabubnagar issued the proceedings, vide C.No.C8/672/96-2, dated 11-11-1996 and it was also mentioned that the contract was valid up to December 1997. Further, it was also mentioned that no local purchase of diet material by the Wardens should be made and indents should be made once in two months by the Assistant Social Welfare Officer with the rate contract approved firms. The Deputy Director, Social Welfare, Mahabubnagar through a telegram Rs.No.C3/1160/96, dated 17-3-1997 instructed all Asst. Social Welfare Officers not to make local purchase of diet material. But, the Deputy Director himself passed many local purchase bills of diet material in contrary to his own instructions and proceedings of the Purchase Committee issued by Joint Collector, Mahabubnagar. Therefore, the ACB has recommended to take Departmental action for award of a major penalty against Sri D.Vasu, Deputy Director, Social Welfare, Mahabubnagar (2) B.Kutumba Rao, District Social Welfare Officer and (3) A.Hanumantha Reddy the then Asst. Accounts Officer, Mahabubnagar for the above lapses.

8. Accordingly, the DTA has initiated the departmental proceedings against Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, AAO vide reference 2nd read above.

CHARGE:

That Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy joined in Irrigation Department as lower Division Clerk and later opted to the department of Treasuries and Subsequently he was promoted as AAO and while working as AAO on deputation in the O/o the Deputy Director, Social Welfare, Mahabubnagar from September 1994 to first week of June 1997 passed the purchase bills of diet material in the months of February and March 97 at abnormal rates than the prevailing prices in the local market.

Thus, Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, AAO (Retd.) O/o the Deputy Director, Social Welfare (SC), Mahabubnagar by the above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, devotion to duty and conduct unbecoming of a public servant and thereby contravened rule.3 (1) & (2) of A.P.C.S.(Conduct) rules.1964.Thus he is a fit person to be dealt with a major penalty as enumerated in rule.9 of A.P. Civil Services (Control Classification and Appeal) Rules, 1991.

9. After examination of the defence statements of the Charged Officers involved in this case, the Social Department has issued orders in G.O.Rt.No.511 Social Welfare (SW.SER.III) Department, dt. 19-11-2005 duly appointing Sri S.Satyanarayana, Member, Commissioner of Inquiries as Inquiry Officer and Mrs. K.Sridevi, Advocate, Hyderabad as Presenting Officer to conduct regular enquiry into the charge framed against Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, Asst. Accounts Officer, O/o. the Deputy Director, Social Welfare, Mahabubnagar and other Charged Officers of Social Welfare Department viz. D.Vasu,

Deputy Director, Social Welfare, Mahabubnagar (2) Sri B.Kutumba Rao, District Social Welfare Officer. **In the enquiry conducted by the COI, the charge framed against the Charged Officer Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, Asst. Accounts Officer, O/o. the Deputy Director, Social Welfare, Mahabubnagar is held proved.**

10. In the mean while, Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, Asst. Accounts Officer, O/o. the Deputy Director Social Welfare, Mahabubnagar has been retired from service on attaining the age of superannuation. Therefore, it was decided to take further action as per Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

11. The following are the findings/observations of the Enquiry Officer in respect of Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, AAO (Retd.):

It is a single charge, covering two issues, **purchase of diet material in the local market at abnormal high rates than the rates approved by Purchase Committee as well as rates prevailing in the local market and excess cash found in the cash chest including irregular drawal of cosmetic charges and non realization of Demand Drafts. For the convenience of Analysis and Assessment of evidence the charge is divided into two parts with purchase of diet material from the local market as part one and finding excess cash in the cash chest including irregular drawal of cosmetic charges and non realization of Demand Drafts as part two.** The charge was framed basing on the surprise check proceedings of Anti Corruption Bureau Officials, Hyderabad Range, Mahabubnagar.

From the facts brought out during the inquiry and also as observed from the records and material adduced before the Inquiry Officer, it is evident that the diet materials were purchased from the local market at higher rates than the rate contract rates approved by the Purchase Committee headed by the Joint Collector, Mahabubnagar District as well as the prevailing market rates and that there was variation in the cash including cosmetic charges drawn irregularly and Demand Drafts worth of Rs.12.723 lakhs pending uncashed. The Charged Officer-1 and 2 has not disputed the surprise check and proceedings thereof of the Anti Corruption Bureau Officials under EX-P1 and EX-P2 except putting a suggestion to PW-1 that there were factually no variations and the proceedings were drafted at the behest of the officials of Anti-Corruption Bureau.

The statement of the defence counsel on behalf of both the charged officer's that the Wardens/Matrons were forced to purchase the commodities in the local market in view of the failure of the approved rate contractors to supply them in time as a measure of emergency and there was no enough time to apply for permission and the quantities purchased were only limited clearly establish that the purchases were in violation of instructions and orders pf Purchase Committee.

In the admission by the PW-1 and PW-2, the plea of the Charged Officer-2 may be true to some extent but as Assistant Accounts Officer working on deputation from Treasuries and Accounts Department as expert in Finance & Accounts is expected to verify the genuinity of the claims including the rates etc., with relevant rules and orders on record and bring his observations to the notice of Charged Officers-1 for rectifications before recording pay order and release of payment and by not discharging his duties effectively as required above the Charged Officer-2 has contributed for committing the irregularity. Further, the prevailing market rates although not supported by documentary evidence collected from the District Gazette or the Mandal Revenue Office or from the Agricultural market yards as stated by the Charged Officers it is evident from the depositions of PW-2 and PW-3 that they have ascertained/enquired the rates prevailing in the local market orally in some places and in some places by collecting quotations and compared with those purchased by the Wardens of the Hostels and found that the rates at

which the diet materials were purchased by the Wardens/matrons were higher than the rates prevailing in the local market.

In view of the above, the first part of the charge against the Charged Officer Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, AAO (Retd.) stand substantiated. Further, the Wardens / Matrons of the Hostels who have actually purchased the diet materials from the local market and at the higher rates than those approved by the Purchase Committee and against the instructions issued by the Purchase Committee and also the Assistant Social Welfare Officer's who have allowed the Wardens/Matrons to make such purchases and verified the claims in the process of their submission to the District Social Welfare Officer in spite of clear instructions from the purchase committee as well as Deputy Director, Social Welfare, Mahaboobnagar forbidding such purchases are also primarily responsible for making such purchases and therefore liable for initiation of disciplinary action.

Regarding part two of the charge, from the records adduced in the case, it is established that the actual cash balance in the cash chest as on the day of surprise check by officials of Anti Corruption Bureau must be Rs.79,372/-which includes Rs.15,905/- balance as per cash book, Rs.440/- Permanent Advance and Rs.63,027/- being balance as per 'VIMUKTHI CASH BOOK' from out of the cash of Rs.2,40,927/-drawn from the District Co-operative Central Bank, Mahaboobnagar as against the net cash of Rs.75,000/- reported to have actually found by the officials of Anti Corruption Bureau in the cash chest and also not Rs.80,897/- as stated by the Charged Officer's in their final written Arguments. The variation is on account of difference in the cash balance noted in the Ex-D1 on 23-05-97. Out of the cash of Rs.2,40,927/- drawn from the bank, after the amount of Rs.1,77,900/-shown as disbursed to the Wardens and Matrons the balance remain in hand will work out to Rs.63,027/- and not Rs.64,552/- as noted down therein the Ex-D1 and from the interpolations and the corrections in the dates and amounts on pages 165-167 of Ex-D1 it clearly establish that even this entry of cash on hand **was inserted** after the surprise check by the officials of Anti Corruption Bureau. The statement of the Charged Officer-2 that he has shown the EX-D1 to the Anti Corruption Bureau Inspector on 13-06-97 but he has refused to see it is not correct from the fact that there was no such plea taken by the Charged Officer-2 in his defence statement submitted to the Disciplinary Authority and his act of not examining the Senior Assistant under whose custody the cash book was there renders his defence devoid of substance. Further, all the payments to the wardens/Matrons towards cosmetic charges etc., are to be made by way of Cheques/Demand Drafts only and not in cash. Contrary to this the drawal of three amounts totaling to Rs.2, 40,927/- in cash from the Bank on 31-03-1997 and 11-04-1997 respectively and disbursing an amount of Rs.1,77,900/- in cash to the Wardens/Matrons on 23-05-97 (i.e.) after about one and half months and from the balance of Rs.63,027/-remitting only Rs.58,945/- back in the bank on 13-10-1997 i.e after nearly another five months leaving an amount of Rs.5,607/- not shown either as disbursed or remitted is highly irregular and amounts to mismanagement of Government money by the Charged Officers-1 and Charged Officer-2. From the above it is established that though there is no excess cash as framed in the article of charge there is virtually variation in the cash with short of Rs.5,607/- unexhibited.

As regards demand Drafts worth Rs.12,72,317.73 pending uncashed dating back from 1987 the statement of the Charged Officer that they were kept pending without remitting to Government account for the reasons that the addresses of the parties are not traceable in spite of best efforts and that in case of Demand Drafts drawn for payment of compensation in land acquisition cases they were returned back by the District Collector, to whom they were sent for disbursement to the claimants, to the Charged officer-1 on the ground that the claimants did not turn up, that the claimants are dead and that the particulars of claimants are not known and with specific instructions not to credit them to Government account lest it may be difficult to pay the compensation to the claimants

later when they turn up in view of the fact that the expenditure is subject to tenable. It in fact amounts to keeping the Government money outside the Government account causing loss of revenue to the government ex-chequer and it proves to be a clear case of negligence on the part of the Charged Officer-2 i.e, Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy.

Further, the plea of the Charged Officer-2 i.e., Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy that the bills were presented for drawal of cosmetic charges in the month of March'97 as the authorization was existing till the end of March 97 and that the amount drawn could not be disbursed due to busy examination schedule cannot be accepted as the cheques were actually received from the Bank on 31-03-97 and 14-04-97 respectively and all the three cheques amounting to Rs.2,40,927/- were actually encashed on 23-05-97 and out of which only a part of amount of Rs.1,77,900/-was actually disbursed to the Wardens/Matrons on 23-05-97 retaining the balance undisbursed amount of Rs.63,027/- till 13-10-97. Further, the action of Charged Officer-2 in not giving any explanation as to why he did not handover keys of the cash chest to the successor when he was transferred amounts to an irregularity.

From the above, it is clearly established that the charge framed against the Charged Officer-2 i.e, Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, AAO (Retd.) is sustained and Charged Officer is proved to be guilty of charge.

12. After careful examination of the report of the Enquiry Officer with reference to the charges framed against Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, Asst. Accounts Officer (Retd.). Governments have come to a provisional conclusion that the said allegation stands substantially proved. Accordingly, a show cause notice was issued to the Charged Officer along with a copy of the Enquiry Report vide reference 6th cited.

13. In the reference 7th read above, the Director of Treasuries and Accounts has forwarded the representation of Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, Asst. Accounts Officer (Retd.). Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, AAO (Retd), has stated that Dy. Director (Social Welfare) is Charged Officer –I and he is the Charged Officer-II. The first charge is that C.O.-I has issued sanction orders for the bills submitted by some social welfare hostels in the district and that the rates of dietary articles involved therein are higher than the then prevailing/market rates and that he (C.O-II) too failed to check the rates while issuing pay orders. In this connection, he stated that the bills sent/submitted by the wardens/matrons of the hostels to the office of the Dy. Director processed through various officers at the district level in the office of the Dy. Director (C.O.I), they passed through the junior and Senior Assistants, Superintendent and District Social Welfare Officer and culminated with the Dy. Director who passes sanction and then came to C.O.II for issuing pay orders. He stated that to issue pay orders based on the sanction orders and with the budgetary allotment. The Inquiring Authority concede the above fact but observes in his report that, being a person deputed from the Treasuries and Accounts department, should have the check the rates involved in the bills. The Charged Officer contends that the above finding is erroneous misconceived and irrelevant. As regard of evidence on the aspect of rates, P.W.1 (Sri Taher) states that he does not know any thing about the prevailing /market rates. P.W.2. the then Dy. S.P. states that he did not verify the market rates in the local shops, agricultural markets, or the rates in the Dist. Gazette. P.W.3 (Sri.Venkatswamy, Inspector) states that he verified the market rates at some places and that the quotations were filed before the inquiry authority. In fact, they were not filed before the inquiry authority. In the instant case, except the enquiry about rates said to have been made by P.W.3 orally from the markets, there is no documentary evidence in support thereof and it is not prudent or safe to act upon the alleged oral enquiries to indict an officer particularly when the documentary evidence is suppressed.

14. The Charged Officer further stated that the second charge against him relate to discrepancy in the cash balance. According to the evidence of P.W.3 there was cash balance of Rs.75,000/- as against the book balance of Rs..15,905/- on 13-06-97. It was suggested to P.W.3 that though the vimukthi cash book was produced before him at the time of inventory proceedings by P.W.3 he refused to look into it. He denied this suggestion. In his cross examination, P.W.1 (Sri Taher), an independent witness, states that he does not remember whether C.Os I and II have produced the Vimukthi cash book and whether P.W.3 has refused to look into it. Immediately, the Inquiring Authority put a question to P.W.1 again. Then P.W.2 prevaricated and answered that C.Os I and II did not produce the Vimukthi cash book and Inspector did not refuse to look into it. Again when the witness was cross examined by the defense counsel, the witness replied that he was not aware whether C.Os I and II has informed the Inspector about the Vimukthi cash book and whether he has refused to look into it. In view of the above conflicting answers, the first answer given by the witness should alone be taken as correct. In view of the conflicting answers of P.W, it should be presumed that C.Os I and II did produce the Vimukthi cashbook at the time of inventory proceedings and that P.W.3 had refused to look into it for ulterior reasons.

15. The Charged Officer further stated that after the closure the evidence of P.Ws 1 to 3, the Inquiring Authority with a view to ascertain the existence of the Vimukthi Cash book, was pleased to summon the production thereof from the office of the Dy.Director, Mahaboobnagar. Accordingly, it was produced before the Inquiring authority. It is marked as Ex.D1, by D.W.1 (Sri Sharanappa), his predecessor in office. He came into the box and deposed that Ex.D1 is one of the recognized registers as per the orders of Government in G.O.Ms.No.16, to be maintained by the office of the Dy. Director. The said G.O was filed by C.O.II before the Inquiring Authority. The endorsement Ex.D1-A at page 89 of the register shows that it was audited by the Accountant General's audit party. The discrepancy in the cash balance will be cleared if the cash balance in the Vimukthi Cash book is also taken in to account. As per the General cash book, the cash balance was Rs.15,905/- on 13-06-97 but the actual cash in the chest was Rs.75,000/-. Further, there was permanent advance of Rs.440/- as per the Vimukthi cash book. There was cash of Rs.58,665/- covered by a receipt in favor of Sri B.Kutumba Rao (District Social Welfare Officer). The receipt of Sri.B.Kutumba Rao was produced by the ACB before the Inquiring Authority. The Inquiring Authority has observed in his report that there are some corrections in amounts in Vimukthi cash book and that the entries are therefore suspicious. The C.O. stated that even though the Vimukthi Cash book Ex.D1 was before the Inquiring authority, no such corrections were pointed out nor the presenting officer cross examined him on the above aspect. Even, the A.G.s audit party did not point out any such corrections during their annual audit report for the years 1996 or 1997. Though the Vimukthi Cash book as available in the office of the Dy. Director, they failed to look into it. The Inquiry Authority observed that there is no excess cash as mentioned into charge but there is variation in cash with short of Rs.5,607/- unexhibited.

16. Another charge framed against Sri A. Hanumantha Reddy and Charged Officer-I relates to undischarged demand drafts to the tune of about Rs.12 Lakhs. Some of the D.Ds were in favour of Government and some in favour of private parties. Except a bare statement by P.Ws 2and 3 that there are undischarged D.Ds, they did not give any particulars thereof. **He stated that most of the D.Ds relate to the period before his assumption of charge.** In his written arguments he mentioned the various reasons for the pendency and the efforts taken by him in clearing off most of the D.Ds. **The uncleared D.Ds in favour of Govt. relate to compensation amounts payable to private parties in Land acquisition cases whose title is not correct.** Such D.Ds were sent back to the District Collector, but the Collector sent them again to the O/o. Dy. Director with the direction that they should be kept pending because it would be difficult to pay them to the parties as and when they turned up with clear title. As regards D.Ds in favour of private

parties, some were paid but the others could not be paid for want of correct addresses of the parties. In some cases, the office did not provide the relevant files to him. He stated that in spite of all these difficulties, he cleared off a large number of D.Ds of Rs.30 lakhs. Further, he stated that the pendency of uncleared D.Ds is more in the nature of an audit objection and they do not indicate any ulterior. He has requested to exonerate him of this charge.

17. Another charge against him and Charged Officer-I is that he did not issue separate cheques for each hostel regarding cosmetic charges and that the office paid cash to the hostels in stead of cheques. He submitted that separate bills were sent to the Bank for issue of cheques but the Bank authorities delayed the payments for want of sufficient number of cheque forms as the number of hostel were more than 200. Therefore, the Dy. Director passed orders for issue of three or four cheques. So that they may be cashed and the amounts paid to the wardens. Moreover, many wardens requested payment of cosmetic charges in cash as there were no banks at their places. As per the orders of the Dy. Director, three or four cheques were obtained from the bank and encashed and paid to the wardens. Therefore, the Charged Officer Sri A Hanumantha Reddy, AAO (Retd.) has requested to exonerate him from all the charges and irregularities and to grant him consequent benefits of promotion, pension and other financial benefits to which he would have been entitled but for the inquiry.

18. Government, after careful examination of the explanation of the Charged Officer Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, AAO (Retd.) with reference to the findings of the Enquiry Officer observed that the purchase bills of diet material were passed in the month of February and March 97 at abnormal rates, than the prevailing prices in the local market. The local purchases have been allowed on the pretext that the rate contractors not supplying the material in time. The Charged Officer being an Asst. Accounts Officer from Treasuries and Accounts Department may object the irregular sanctions accorded by the Deputy Director/District Social Welfare Officer in respect of diet bills. Further, during the surprise check excess cash was found in the cash chest and the Charged Officer failed to maintain the cash book in a proper way and irregularly drawn the cosmetic charges in cash and disbursed instead of cheques. Hence, it is provisionally derived that the charge framed against Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, Asst. Accounts Officer (Retd.) was proved substantially beyond any doubt. Therefore, Government came to a provisional conclusion for imposition of a punishment of withholding of 30% of his pension for a period of (5) years on the Charged Officer, Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, Asst. Accounts Officer (Retd.), under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension rules, 1980. Accordingly, a final show cause notice was issued to the Charged Officer, Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, Asst. Accounts Officer (Retd.) vide reference 8th read above.

19. The Charged Officer, Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, Asst. Accounts Officer (Retd.), submitted his explanation vide reference 9th read above. Government, after careful examination of the Charges, written statement of defence and explanations of the Charged Officer, with reference to the findings of the Enquiry Officer and final show-cause notice in detail, observed that that the Charged Officer has not put forth any fresh grounds in his explanation to the final show-cause notice. The purchase bills of diet material were passed in the month of February and March 97 at abnormal rates, than the prevailing prices in the local market. The Charged Officer being an Asst. Accounts Officer from Treasuries and Accounts Department should object the irregular sanctions accorded by the Deputy Director/District Social Welfare Officer in respect of diet bills. Further, during the surprise check excess cash was found in the cash chest and the Charged Officer failed to maintain the cash book in a proper way and irregularly drawn the cosmetic charges in cash and disbursed instead of cheques to the Warden and Matrons. The Charged Officer has failed to perform his legitimate duties as financial advisor in guiding the Deputy Director, Social Welfare, Mahabubnagar and paved way

for committing irregularities. Therefore, Government came to a provisional conclusion to impose a punishment of withholding of 30% of pension for a period of (5) years on the Charged Officer, A.Hanumantha Reddy, AAO (Retd.) under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980 and referred the matter to the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, Hyderabad for their concurrence vide reference 12th read above.

20. The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Hyderabad in their letter 13th read above, have concurred with the proposal of the Government for imposition of a punishment of withholding of 30% of pension for a period of 5 years on the Charged Officer Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, AAO (Retd.).

21. Government accordingly, hereby order for imposition of punishment of withholding 30% of pension for a period of (5) years on the Charged Officer, Sri A.Hanumantha Reddy, AAO (Retd.) under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

22. The Director of Treasuries and Accounts, Hyderabad shall take necessary further action in the matter accordingly.

23. The G.O. is available on Internet and can be accessed at the address <http://www.goir.ap.gov.in>.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

VASUDHA MISHRA
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (FP)

To

The individual through Director of Treasuries and Accounts, AP, Hyderabad.

The Director of Treasuries and Accounts, AP, Hyderabad.

The Deputy Director, Social Welfare, Mahaboobnagar District.

Copy to:

The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, AP, Hyderabad.

The Secretary, A.P. Vigilance Commission, A.P., Hyderabad.

SF/SC

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER